

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00446 120625Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----029799 120626Z /17

O R 120501Z
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 518
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, SA, AF
SUBJECT: SAUDI-AFGHANI RELATIONS

1. DURING JUNE 10 MEETING, CROWN PRINCE TOLD ME SAUDI ARABIA
WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN.
IN THAT EVENT, HOWEVER, SOME ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE TO TIE RECOG-
NITION TO A MESSAGE SAYING THAT SAUDI ECONOMIC AID TO AFGHANISTAN
WOULD DEPEND ON THE NEW KABUL REGIME'S NOT BECOMING OVERLY SUB-
SERVIENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. HE FELT THERE WAS HOPE BECAUSE OF
INNATE RELIGIOUS FEELINGS OF AFGHANIS, WHO, SAG FELT, WERE FORCING
NEW REGIME TO GO SLOW ON COMMUNISM, AND BECAUSE KABUL GOVERNMENT
HAD
PROVEN RESPONSIVE TO SAUDI AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR RELEASE FROM
DETENTION OF MEMBERS OF FORMER AFGHAN ROYAL FAMILY.

2. IN RESPONSE I SAID IT WAS HEARTENING TO HAVE SAUDI CONFIRMATION
THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. U.S.G. HAD
BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH THE GROWTH OF SOVIET INFLUENCE,
OF WHICH AFGHANISTAN WAS JUST THE LATEST EXAMPLE. I COMMENDED
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THE CROWN PRINCE FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN COUNTERING THAT THREAT
IN EGYPT, SOMALIA, THE REST OF THE HORN OF AFRICA AND NOW AFGHANISTAN.

GNEHM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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